

Testimony  
in support of SB 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO  
EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Rev. Anthony F. Lorenzen  
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Representative Abercrombie, Senator Moore, and members of the Human Services Committee, I write to you to offer testimony in support of SB 284 An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status.” Thank you for receiving my written testimony.

I am a Unitarian Universalist minister serving the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden and the Mattatuck UU Society. I am a resident of Woodbury. I speak to you from my faith as a Unitarian Universalist because I believe there is no such thing as a lesser person, and therefore all people deserve dignity and respect. I support United Action Connection and I’m a supporter of Connecticut Students for a Dream. My church in Meriden served as a sanctuary residence for Sujitno and Dahlia Sajuti for 599 days. During the Covid-19 pandemic we raised thousands of dollars to support immigrants both documented and undocumented in our community. The Mattatuck UU Society works with New Start Ministries to help resettle refugees, most recently from Afghanistan. We are committed to justice on behalf of immigrants and refugees regardless of documentation status.

Our undocumented human siblings get sick and require medical attention just as you and I do. Undocumented people suffer injuries, develop cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and mental illness. Injuries and illnesses that go untreated due to lack of access to health care can worsen, can make it impossible for a child to remain in school, require visits to the Emergency Room, and even result in death. SB 284 takes this reality seriously. SB 284 addresses the medical needs of a portion of the immigrant population in Connecticut: children. It offers a pathway for all children who meet the economic requirements, regardless of immigration status, to access medical care when they need it. The impulse behind this bill is compassionate. It is loving. It is caring. It is justice-seeking. Having access to quality, affordable health care makes an enormous difference in a child’s life.

I am convinced our state can afford the cost of this bill, and I urge all elected officials to take to heart the Recovery for All campaign’s revenue proposals. We cannot forget that health care is a human right regardless of immigration status. Please support SB 284. It’s matter of surviving and thriving. It’s a matter of life and death.

Respectfully,



Rev. Anthony F. Lorenzen